

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04335 032013Z

61

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05 /033 W

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P 031537Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 530

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STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

FOR EUR/NE-ANN PINKNEY

E.O. 11652: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SV, NO

SUBJ: PROPOSED ARTIC DRIFTING STATION PROJECT

REF: BUCHANAN-PINKNEY LETTER DATED SEPT. 16

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASKED IF EMBASSY CAN GIVE SOONEST ANY US VIEWS ON PROPOSED ICEBREAKER DRIFTING STATION ALONG MANSEN'S "FRAM" ROUTE IN ARCTIC ICE, AS OUTLINED REFERENCED LETTER. POLAR INSTITUTE DIRECTOR GJELSVIK PLANS LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS PROJECT, AND MINISTRY WOULD LIKE, IF POSSIBLE, KNOW US ATTITUDE BEFORE HE DEPARTS. WE DO NOT HAVE GJELSVIK'S FIRM TRAVEL PLANS NOW BUT WILL SEND THEM NEXT WEEK.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERN NOW SEEMS TO BE ABOUT POSSIBLE USE OF SVALBARD AIRPORT OR CONCEIVABLY LANDING STRIP AT PROPOSED SUPPLY BASE ON SVALBARD BY AIRCRAFT TO SUPPLY THE DRIFTING SHIP. QUESTION IS DO PLANS CALL FOR US SUPPLY AIRCRAFT TO USE SVALBARD AND WOULD AIRCRAFT BE A MILITARY PLANE? PROPOSAL TO USE MILITARY PLANE WOULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR NORWEGIANS SINCE THEY ARE STILL UNEASY ABOUT THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DEMILITARIZATION ARTICLE OF SVALBARD TREATY AS IT RELATES TO THE USE OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT ON THE SVALBARD AIRFIELD.

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3. WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPT. WOULD LOOK INTO THIS MATTER

URGENTLY, ANSWERING ABOVE QUESTIONS AND GIVING ANY US VIEWS ON
PROJECT.
BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

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